

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An illumination optical system for illuminating a mask using light from a light source includes a shape
5 varying mechanism for continuously making a shape of an effective light source variable, wherein the shape varying mechanism includes a first stop plate that has a first aperture part for allowing the light to pass through the first aperture part, and a second stop
10 plate that has second aperture part for allowing the light that has passed through the first stop plate through the second aperture part.